



## Governor's Advisory Council to the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Chapel – Herman M. Holloway, Sr. Campus

November 17, 2016 9:15 a.m.

**Members Present:** Jack Akester, Patricia Ayers, Anthony Brazen, Robert Daniels, Andrea Guest, Patricia Hill, Janice Jolly, Devon Manning, Jim Martin, George Meldrum, Susan Phillips

**Members Excused:** John Evans, Thomas Hall, James Lafferty

**Members Absent:** Helena Carter, Joanna Rieger

**Associate Members Present:** Lynn Fahey, John McKenna, Charles Sygowski

**Associate Members Excused:** Bruce Lorenz

**Associate Members Absent:** Florence Alberque, Lisa Furber, Dan Hoeftman, James Lark, Edie McCole,

**Interested Parties Present:** Michael Barbieri, Barbara Bell, Elizabeth Booth, Tom Johnson, William Mason, Joshua Thomas-Acker, Greg Valentine, Norm Vetter, Daphne Warner, Erin Goldner

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to Order/Introductions	Vice Chairman Jack Akester called the meeting to order at 9:10a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Meeting participants were invited to introduce themselves and share their affiliation.	
Review and Approval of Minutes		The meeting minutes from September were approved.
Chairman's Report	Vice Chairman Jack Akester reported in Chairman James Lafferty's absence. Lynn Fahey reported there was one nomination for GAC Chairman. There were no nominations for Vice Chairman. Lynn informed the committee that Jim Martin was nominated for GAC Chairman. Mr. Martin was then appointed by an unanimous vote from the committee. There were no nominations submitted from the floor for Vice Chairman.	

Director's Report	<p>Director Mike Barbieri reported in October, DSAMH had been released from the DOJ Settlement Agreement and that Delaware was the first state to complete a settlement within the five year time frame. The issues that arose from the settlement will continue to be addressed. The DOJ was most impressed with the PEER Support Program. The division will put more focus on the Peer Program and getting more recovery coaches on board.</p> <p>Director Mike Barbieri informed the council that Greg Valentine has moved from Director of DPC to Director of Community Based Services and Norm Vetter has been appointed DPC Director. He invited Norm to speak. Norm Vetter reported he has over 30 years of mental health experience. Norm's last position was Assistant Director of Social Services at Eagleview Hospital in Montgomery County, where he managed the co-occurring section.</p> <p>Director Mike Barbieri reported that DSAMH is entering the new year with a significant budget deficit and the division has been asked to give back \$2.4 million. The premise is to do cut the budget without cutting programs. Medicaid dollars could help continue the level of support already being provided. Director Barbieri reported since the state is in transition with a new governor and administration, the division needs to memorialize the accomplishment achieved over the years to enable anyone coming in to carry them forward.</p>	
<b>Standing Committee Reports:</b>		
Children's Committee	<p>Daphne Warner reported in Helena Carter's absence that the Children's Committee budget has a request for four behavioral health consultants and 2 elementary family crisis therapist. The committee will contact physicians if those positions are funded. The crisis service bid has gone out and there are different locations being reviewed. More information should be available soon.</p>	

Employment Committee	<p>Andrea Guest reported the Employment Committee met with an ACT Team to discuss strategies to increase employment of individuals at the ACT Team. The committee is gathering information over the next two months to report data on how many people are in “employment lines” and how many people have actually received jobs in the communities. A portion of the Vocational Rehabilitation program is set aside for working with youth and young adults with behavioral health issues. The committee is working with the Department of Education to create a Career Pathways Initiative. The transition from middle school to high school has the highest dropout rate so this program focuses on 14 year olds with disabilities. The approach today is not to stress the emphasis on a four year college experience, but a two year or vocational education instead. December 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a youth conference at Dover Downs. The conference is for the benefit of parents, students, and teachers with professionals holding workshops.</p>	
Membership Committee	<p>Jack Akester reported membership includes 16 full members and 9 associate members. Jack reported that his position on the DPC Advisory Committee will be open as well as Jim Martin’s position on the Community Services Committee.</p>	
Community Services Committee	<p>Jim Martin reported there is a new hospital in Georgetown that will generate new jobs which is beneficial to Sussex County. There is a new recovery response center in Ellendale. A new sober living facility for women coming out of treatment has opened. Attack Addiction and Caring &amp; Sharing are volunteer groups that are very active in the area of addiction.</p>	
DPC Advisory Committee	<p>Jack Akester reported that DPC Advisory Committee met on November 9<sup>th</sup> and Greg Valentine introduced Norm Vetter as DPC Director. The daily census is between 111-112 clients. There are 80 civil beds at DPC. The facility has 17 long term clients waiting for a nursing/group home placement. The Infection Control department has increased its flu/pneumonia vaccinations for staff and clients. The three day readmission rate for August and September was zero. The number of seclusion and restraint incidents remains low.</p>	

Old Business	None	
New Business	None	
Public Comment	Erin Goldner spoke on the importance of Peers. She feels that oftentimes professionals are focused on the professional standards and more attention should be directed towards the relationships that peers bring to the treatment area. She thinks peer support is invaluable because the peer has experienced what an addicted or mentally ill person is going through. She senses when a peer tells their story it elicits trust and trust makes it easier to help that person in need. Erin also feels it is helpful when peers are a formal part of the community.	
Meeting Adjourned	A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.	The committee approved the adjournment.